



Sheila Dixon
President,
Baltimore City Council

100 N. Holliday Street, Room 400 · Baltimore Maryland 21202
410-396-4804 · Fax: 410-539-0647

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 10, 2007

CONTACT:
Ruffin Brown
443-984-3808 (desk)

Dixon Administration Attracts Leading Baltimore Attorney as City Solicitor

*George Nilson to join Jay Brodie and other Talented Professionals, Excited about
Direction of Baltimore and its New Mayor*

Baltimore, MD (January 10, 2007) – Incoming Mayor Sheila Dixon announced today her choices of DLA Piper attorney George A. Nilson to become the next Baltimore City Solicitor and M.J. “Jay” Brodie to remain as President of the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC), respectively. Both positions are viewed as critical to continuing the economic development progress of the outgoing Administration.

“The City’s top lawyer has to have the right perspective, insight and confidence to provide sound legal advice in a number of diverse and seemingly unrelated areas to the Mayor and other clients comprising City government. At the same time, I wanted someone who shares my passion for public service,” said Mayor Dixon. “George Nilson’s impressive career reflects those two primary requirements of broad experience and a commitment to public service.”

In a similar move, Mayor Dixon was able to retain Jay Brodie who has successfully lead BDC and downtown Baltimore’s ongoing economic development expansion since 1996.

“Over the past six years, we’ve seen how economic development projects can be the catalysts for business expansion and job growth. We’re also starting to see that the definition of economic development has expanded to include traditional quality of life areas. I’m speaking of Jay Brodie’s vision and philosophy,” commented Dixon. “Jay understands the complexities of development projects like no other. He has been a leader in his field for well over thirty years and I’m pleased that Baltimore will continue to benefit from his leadership going forward.”

George Nilson, whose legal career and public service expand over five decades, has lead legal teams on a range of issues including tobacco litigation, consumer controversies, public and administrative law, environmental controversies, zoning and litigation related to real estate development, cable television controversies and complex civil litigation. Additionally, he has committed countless pro bono hours to work on behalf of Midtown Academy, Maryland first public charter school, and he has is the founder and board chair of the Baltimore Efficiency and Economy Foundation (BEEF), an organization that matches existing resources to help the City of Baltimore extend its limited resources.

Mr. Nilson's career includes serving six years as the Deputy Attorney General of Maryland. He was a member of the Standing Committee on the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Court of Appeals of Maryland for six years, was chairman of the General Assembly Compensation Commission for eight years, and has directed numerous important Maryland State and Baltimore City Bar Association committees.

Nilson has three degrees from Yale University: B.A., a Masters of Urban Studies and a LLB.

Jay Brodie has been leading community and economic development efforts since the early 1960s. During that time, he has been a significant influence in shaping the character and image of the internationally famous and studied Baltimore Inner Harbor area. From 1984-1993, Mr. Brodie served as executive director of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC), a federal corporation established by Congress to revitalize a 21-block, 110-acre area between the White House and the US Capitol in Washington, DC. Mr. Brodie oversaw the near completion of the nation's most prestigious urban redevelopment project using \$150 million of public funds to attract \$1.5 billion in private investment.

Before leading the PADC, Mr. Brodie served as deputy commissioner and commissioner of the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development. After PADC, he was senior vice president of RTKL Associates, Inc., an international architecture/engineering/planning firm headquartered in Baltimore. Brodie's three-decade career prior to joining RTKL and his contributions leading major development agencies in Washington and Baltimore garnered him the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Thomas Jefferson Award in 1994, which honors public officials and public- and private-sector architects whose career achievements represent quality design.

Brodie earned his bachelor of architecture from the University of Virginia and his master of architecture degree from Rice University.

As part of Mayor Dixon's vision for the future of Baltimore, expanding the successes of the Inner Harbor and its surrounding communities to the farther reaching neighborhoods will be a top priority. In order to achieve that goal, Mayor Dixon will continue to recruit proven, experienced leaders like Jay Brodie and George Nilson; as well as talented, ambitious professionals like Chris Thomaskutty, Deborah Moore-Carter and Dr. Joshua Sharfstein.

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